Boston, April 6. 1856.

Dear Mr. Webb;

Yours of 13th March came to hand, 30th. I am sorry for the delay of the box. If you have ever requested me to consign these annual boxes to any person's care in Liverpool, I have forgotten it. I think I have not usually done so, — supposing the notification to you would insure its being looked after by the person you might call upon. I am glad the small parcels (which went in care of a brother-in-law of mine, seeking a restoration of lost health, & by this time, I suppose, in Southern Italy) reached you so promptly. I had hoped, that by this time, another parcel (containing Mrs. Child's Vols., T. Parker's Defence, & some Slate pencils) would be half-way over the ocean to you; but, alas! it still lies at No. 21 Cornhill. Train & Co. sent no ship the 20th March, as advertised; freights were very dull, & the Ship had another destination. They informed me of a British barque, soon to sail for Liverp.l. I made inquiry of her agents, who informed me that she also was withdrawn, & was loading for another port. So I was disappointed in that quarter also — since which I have known of no vessel up for L. — I shall keep an eye upon the advertisements of vessels to sail, & will get forward the parcel as soon as may be. I might send the parcel by Steamship, but it would cost I suppose 2 or 3 dollars at least. I got the books at a low rate — Mrs. C., $1. the vol. ($3.) & T. P.'s Defence, 90cts., I believe. Is S. R. Graves's the Agents (in Liverpool) you prefer? — My regret for the delay of the box, please understand, is not in the least on our own account here; and if you think no harm is done (and I cannot believe that any is)

we shall not have a word to say. I am sorry that Anne Weston could not stop to see any of the friends in England; but this opportunity must be had, before her return. When that will be, I know not. Her brother is to return, I understand, pretty soon; but whether she will return with him is uncertain.

I am very glad that I wrote anything sensible enough to obtain your approbation so far as to be - in your judgment - worth sending to the present Lord Lieut.t; and exceedingly glad that the Earl was kind enough to call upon you, for I am sure it must have been mutually pleasant, and could not have failed to repay him well for his time and pains. As you say you did not before know him, I may be pardoned a little satisfaction in the thought that my letter did this good service. Will you tell me what the Earl said on the subject? His sympathy with the general Anti-slavery principle & Movement has been long known to us. When in Boston (as Lord Morpeth) he attended one of the early Anti-Slavery Fairs (or Bazaars) - that year held in a small hall on Washington Street, called Anony Hall. I remember well seeing him there, and reflecting how few English noblemen, or 'influential' gentlemen, would deem it worth their while, or compatible with their dignity (!), to look in upon a Fair held for a cause so unpopular, indeed with nearly all of those, whom he would be likely to see in Boston, so odious. I honored him then for the manliness and independence he manifested, and for the superiority he evinced to the vulgar prejudices of

Boston people, - not less vulgar because entertained by wealthy & "respectable" folks. He has repeatedly shown since that he well understands the difference between true and false nobility. It is a proof of the sound sense of any Government, when it entrusts its responsible offices to such men, rather than to the more numerous aspirants, of the selfish and partisan views. I think the progress of matters shows how difficult it is to foment a war between England and the U. States. Our govt. has immense power for mischief, and has used it under the present administration (to go no further back) for most vile & mischievous purposes. But all its sophistry and artifice has failed utterly to provoke a war-feeling towards Gt. Britain among our people. There is no cause, in the general feeling; and the general wish & hope is, that there never may be any.

Pillsbury sent over here a copy of the Maria Webb letter. The contemptible meanness which Stuart is guilty of, in sending it about, in an underhand manner, to do its assassin-like work, is characteristic of him, and of the New Broad St. tactics generally. Of the letter itself, it seemed to be the honest expression of a rather contracted and most intensely-bigoted mind. I should judge that she really feels & supposes that she is doing God service, and that we are really enemies of God & of Man, because we refuse to give up our souls, bound & fettered, to the control of Creed and Priest. I think you will be pleased with some of Garrison's late Liberator articles - those on Peace & War, Sharp's Rifles and the Gospel, &c. Think of that "infidel"

coming to the rescue of one of the distinctions — perhaps the distinctive principle of Gospel morality — the forgiveness of injuries and the abstinence from all violences and injury toward enemies, against the ordained & Orthodox "Ministers of the Gospel" so called! Which is the truer Christian? Which shows the most faith in Christ? Which is most truly unbelieving, or infidel? Especially I hope you like G.'s piece, designed for the Advocate. I thought it a most entire & complete justification of his course. It could not have reached you — I wish it could have — for the April number.

Our arrangements are in a good state of forwardness for the New York Annual Meeting. We anticipate a good meeting, of course. —

Do you think Mary Ethin is ill, or has she entered on the ~~work of~~ examination of her father's MSS, and become already engrossed by them?

I dare say I have given Maria Weston too much credit for sincerity. I infer that you, who must of course know what she is, think her designing, &c. Is she a sister of Richard Allen? Her course, as you describe it, in bringing forward family matters, and distorting and perverting them, would certainly indicate a bad mind as well as a narrow one.

Ever sincerely Yours

Sam'l May Jr.

Train & Co. advertise a Ship to go 1st of May — I see vessel sooner, except the Steamships.

MS. B.1.6 v.6-p.29